



# SCTA

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*Keeping Sonoma County Moving*

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March 3, 2006

Honorable James Beall  
Chairman, Legislation Committee  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
10 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: March 3, 2006, Legislation Committee - Item 4, Environmental Justice Principles

Dear Chairman Beall:

At the January Legislation Committee meeting the Committee heard a proposal from the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) to adopt Environmental Justice Principles crafted by MCAC over the past 18 months. The Bay Area Partnership suggested a paragraph be included in the adoption of the principles providing a broad context for the proposed principles. The CMA Directors had more extensive concerns about the principles and suggested some amended language.

After much discussion, the Legislative Committee asked representatives from the Partnership and the MCAC to meet and develop some compromise language, particularly as it related to principles three and four.

In response to that request, MTC staff called for a joint meeting of the Partnership and MCAC on February 3. Neither group had enough members present to establish a quorum, however there was a lengthy and productive discussion about the each of the principles. The result of this discussion was the development of proposed compromise language for principles three and four that is shown below.

*Principle #3: MTC shall include environmental justice inequities (as identified in by actions of Principle #2) in its discretionary investment decisions and shall pursue actions to mitigate identified inequities.*

*Principle #4: Ensure that adverse or potentially adverse disproportionate project impacts on low income and/or minority communities are*

**Suzanne Wilford**  
Executive Director

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*addressed and mitigated to the fullest extent practicable by project sponsors prior to MTC project or funding approval.*

This language, and two other options for principle four, was presented at a regular meeting of the MCAC and they decided to re-submit the original principles developed by the MCAC for your consideration.

The joint meeting of representatives from MCAC and the Partnership resulted in a very positive discussion. I appreciated the opportunity the Legislation Committee offered the two advisory groups to develop a consensus on the environmental justice principles.

I am sorry I will not be available to attend the Legislation Committee meeting today to answer any questions you may have about the joint meeting. Please accept this letter as my report on the joint meeting held at your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Wilford". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Suzanne" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Wilford".

Suzanne Wilford  
Chair, Bay Area Partnership